

**CITY OF STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA  
CITY MANAGER ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE**

<b>Subject:</b>  <b>DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY</b>	<b>Directive No. HR-15</b>	<b>Page No. 1 of 14</b>
	<b>Effective Date:</b>  <b>5/1/2015</b>	<b>Revised From:</b> <b>7/27/09</b> <b>4/6/09</b> <b>3/1/2010</b> <b>(see below)</b>

PER-015 (Sexual Harassment in the Workplace) revised from 10/21/94, 5/1/95, 1/1/98  
PER-037 (Sexual Harassment Investigative Procedures) revised from 2/15/93

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to reaffirm the City's commitment to demonstrating respect for all individuals by strictly prohibiting discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment in the workplace. This policy defines prohibited behavior and conduct, and sets forth a procedure for reporting, investigating and resolving complaints of discrimination, harassment, in the workplace, including retaliation and hostile work environment.

**II. POLICY**

- A. The City of Stockton prohibits any form of discrimination and/or harassment of any person based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, military and veterans status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristics or information, denial of family and medical care leave, marital status, sexual orientation, sex (including gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding), political affiliation, age (40 and older), concerted labor activity, or any other category or attribute consistent with state or federal law. All such discrimination and harassment is unlawful and shall not be tolerated. In addition, under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), the City of Stockton prohibits discrimination and/or harassment, or retaliation against an employee who obtains coverage, receives a tax credit or subsidy through the Health Care "Market Place" or "Exchange."
- B. It is an unlawful employment practice to discriminate against or to harass an unpaid intern or volunteer on the basis of any legally protected classification unless an exception applies, such as a bona fide occupational qualification.
- C. The City will neither tolerate nor condone discrimination and/or harassment of employees by managers, supervisors, co-workers, or non-employees with whom City employees have a business service, or professional relationship.
- D. All City employees and non-employees share a responsibility to assist in

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maintaining an employment environment free of discrimination and harassment. This policy applies to all aspects of City employment, including, but not limited to, hiring, reassignment, placement, promotion, employment action, disciplinary action, layoff, reemployment, transfer, leave of absence, compensation and benefits, training; or other terms of treatment of that person in an unpaid internship, or another limited duration program to provide unpaid work experience for that person, or the harassment of an unpaid intern or volunteer.

- E. All allegations of discrimination and/or harassment shall be investigated immediately by the City, in accordance with this policy. If it is determined that any prohibited activity has occurred, remedial action shall be taken. Such action may include discipline up to and including discharge. In addition, under applicable law, individual supervisors and employees may be subject to personal liability and/or punitive damages in any litigation arising as a result of such conduct.
- F. All new hires shall attend harassment awareness training, and supervisors and managers shall attend harassment awareness and prevention training for supervisors every two years.
- G. The City of Stockton prohibits retaliation against any employee or non-employee by another employee, non-employee, supervisor, or manager for reporting, filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any manner in any investigation, proceeding, or hearing conducted by the employer or a federal or state enforcement agency.
- H. This policy applies to all officials, employees, volunteers, unpaid interns, agents, or contractors of the City.
- I. This policy shall be administered by the Director of Human Resources.

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**III. DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES OF DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

- A. "Discrimination," as used in this policy, is any action, behavior, practice, or process that is intended to deny, or results in the denial of, employment rights, privileges, or benefits because of a person's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, military and veterans status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristics or information, denial of family and medical care leave, marital status, sexual orientation, sex (including gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding), political affiliation, age (40 and older), concerted labor activity, or any other prohibition identified under state and federal law. The following are examples of conduct that may constitute discrimination:
1. Soliciting applications from a source where all or most of potential workers are of the same race or color.
  2. Considering a person's gender as the basis for differences in pay, work assignments, performance evaluations, training, discipline, or any other area of employment; and
  3. Questioning a job applicant about the existence, nature and severity of a disability.
- B. "Harassment," as used in this policy, consists of any conduct affecting another person because of his or her race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, military and veterans status, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristics or information, denial of family and medical care leave, marital status, sexual orientation, sex (including gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding), political affiliation, age (40 and older), concerted labor activity, or any other category or attribute identified under state and federal law when such conduct has the purpose or the effect of: (1) creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment; (2) unreasonably interfering with the employee's or non-employee's work performance; or (3)

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otherwise adversely affecting an employee's or non-employee's employment opportunities.

Harassment may take many forms, including, but not limited to, the following examples:

1. Verbal Harassment: Epithets, derogatory and offensive comments or slurs based on race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age, or any other category or attribute identified under state and federal law.
  2. Physical Harassment: Assault, impeding or blocking movement that results in the physical interference with normal work or movement on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age, or any other category or attribute identified under state and federal law.
  3. Visual Harassment: The displaying of posters, photography, notices, bulletins, e-mails, cartoons or drawings with derogatory and offensive content based on race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, medical condition, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age, or any other category or attribute identified under state and federal law.
- C. "Sexual harassment," as used in this policy, is a subcategory of harassment, and is specifically defined by law as unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or visual, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
1. Submission to such conduct is made a term or condition of employment; or
  2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the individual; or

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3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's or non-employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment because of the persistent, severe or pervasive nature of the conduct.

Examples of Sexual Harassment include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Unwelcome sexual overtures or propositions.
- b. Offering employment benefits or status in exchange for sexual favors.
- c. Making or threatening retaliation after a negative response to sexual advances.
- d. Visual conduct such as leering, making sexual gestures, displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, calendars or posters.
- e. Verbal conduct such as using epithets or slurs, telling sexually explicit jokes, or making derogatory or suggestive comments about a person's body or dress.
- f. Written communications of a sexual nature distributed in hard copy, soft copy or via a computer network.
- g. Verbal abuse of a sexual nature, graphic verbal commentary about an individual's body, sexually degrading words to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations.
- h. Physical conduct such as touching, assaulting, impeding or blocking movements.

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- i. Retaliation for making harassment reports or threatening to report harassment.

D. Affordable Care Act (ACA) Anti-Retaliation

Pursuant to section §1558 of the Affordable Care Act, the City prohibits discrimination or retaliation towards any employee who:

1. Receives a health insurance tax credit or subsidy through the Health Care "Marketplace" or "Exchange", by which can trigger a penalty payable by the employer;
2. Reports potential violations of protections afforded under Title I of the Act, which provides guaranteed availability protections among other things;
3. Testifies in a proceeding concerning such violation;
4. Assists or participates in a proceeding concerning a violation; or
5. Objects to, or refuses to participate in, any activity, policy, practice, or assigned task that the employee reasonably believes to be in violation of any provision of the Title I of the Act.

An employee who believes that he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against in violation of section §1558 of the Affordable Care Act may seek relief in accordance with the procedures, notifications, burdens of proof, remedies, and statutes of limitation set forth in section 2087(b) of title 15, United States Code.

**IV. REPORTING AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

A. Immediate Action Required

The City's reporting and complaint procedures provide for an immediate, thorough and objective investigation of discrimination or harassment claims, appropriate disciplinary action taken against any person found to have engaged in prohibited behavior, and appropriate alternative remedies to any

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employee or non-employee subject to discrimination or harassment. To accomplish this, such incidents must be reported immediately to a supervisor or manager.

1. Employee's and Non-Employee's Responsibilities when Subjected to Discrimination and/or Harassment
  - a. Employees or non-employees who believe they have been subjected to discrimination or harassment, or are aware of discrimination or harassment against others, shall report the situation immediately to his/her supervisor or manager, except as specified in subsection (b), below. Employees and non-employees shall report any such incidents occurring in the workplace, whether committed by coworkers, supervisors or managers, or third persons doing business with the City, such as customers or vendors, or other non-employees. If comfortable doing so, an employee or non-employee who has a complaint of discrimination or harassment is encouraged to directly inform the person(s) engaging in the behavior that such conduct is offensive and insist the behavior to stop.
  - b. Employees and non-employees must immediately contact a supervisor or manager to register a complaint of discrimination or harassment, unless that supervisor or manager is the individual engaging in the unwanted behavior. In that case, the employee or non-employee may contact someone at the next supervisory level. If the employee or non-employee feels uncomfortable dealing directly with his or her immediate supervisor or manager, he or she may contact the department head, or the Director of Human Resources (or either of their designees) to register a complaint of discrimination or harassment.
  - c. Employees and non-employees may file a formal complaint of harassment or discrimination with their department head or

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with Human Resources. To assist the City in conducting a thorough investigation, complaints shall be submitted in writing and shall include specific details of the incident(s), the names of the individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, and any documentary evidence (notes, pictures, cartoons, etc.) that will corroborate the allegations.

- d. Employees and non-employees shall immediately report any retaliation to a supervisor, manager, department head or Director of Human Resources (or designee). All retaliation complaints shall be immediately, objectively and thoroughly investigated in accordance with the investigation procedures. If a report of retaliation is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge shall be taken.

2. Supervisor's or Manager's Responsibilities to Eliminate Discrimination and/or Harassment

- a. A supervisor or manager is responsible for enforcing the City's discrimination and harassment policy. Supervisors or managers must ensure that all employees and non-employees are aware of the City's policy through open discussion of the policy at staff meetings and by posting the policy in a conspicuous location accessible to all staff members.
- b. A supervisor or manager shall be cognizant of employees' and non-employees' behavior and shall not permit any employee or non-employee under their supervision to be subjected to or engage in any conduct prohibited by this policy.
- c. A supervisor or manager who observes conduct prohibited by this policy shall immediately direct the employee or non-employee to cease the conduct.



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d. A supervisor or manager who receives a complaint of prohibited conduct is required to take the complaint seriously, and report the matter immediately to the department head; be supportive of the complainant; ensure there is no retaliation against the complainant; conduct an internal fact-finding review into the allegations; obtain as much detailed information as possible; thoroughly document the findings; communicate in written form to the parties the resolution of the complaint; and report to and consult with the Human Resources Department promptly, without delay.

B. Confidentiality. The City will make every effort to protect the privacy and confidentiality of all parties involved, as well as any information and/or documentation obtained, to the extent possible consistent with a thorough investigation.

C. Penalty for Non-Compliance. The City shall take disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, against any supervisor or manager who fails in his/her responsibility to take immediate action in response to an employee's or non-employee's complaint of discrimination or harassment. Further, such disciplinary action shall be taken against a supervisor or manager who fails to stop discriminatory or harassing conduct committed in his/her presence or to stop such conduct about which the supervisor or manager has knowledge.

**V. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

A. Determination of Responsibility for Investigation

If a formal complaint is filed with the department head or the Director of Human Resources (or either of their designees), the department head and the Director of Human Resources shall consult with one another to determine whether the department or Human Resources shall conduct the fact-finding investigation into the allegations. Either the department head or the Director of Human Resources (or either of their designees), depending on who is

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responsible for the investigation, shall issue written notification to the complainant and alleged harasser(s). The notification shall specify the nature of the complaint, and inform the parties that an investigation into the allegations of discrimination and/or harassment shall be conducted.

**B. Investigative Guidelines**

The investigation shall include the following steps taken in the order best suited to the circumstances:

1. Identify and preserve the evidence.
2. Confirm the name and position of the complainant. Interview the complainant.
3. Allow the complainant the opportunity to place the complaint in writing.
4. Obtain the identity of the alleged harasser(s).
5. Obtain as many details as possible regarding the incident(s) that prompted the complaint, including the number of occurrences, dates, times, locations, and witnesses (if applicable).
6. Ascertain how the complainant felt about the alleged incident when it occurred; complainant's response(s) to the alleged behavior; and witness statements (if applicable).
7. Ascertain if any threats or promises were made in connection with the alleged harassment.
8. Ascertain if the complainant knows of or suspects that there are other victims of harassment by the same person(s).
9. Ascertain whether the complainant has spoken to anyone, especially

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supervisors, about the harassment.

10. Ascertain what resolution would be acceptable to the complainant.
11. Interview the alleged harasser to get his or her side of the story, including any possible motivation for a false allegation.
12. Interview witnesses who were identified by the complainant regarding the alleged harasser or other persons identified during the investigation.
13. Interview witnesses who were identified by the alleged harasser or other persons identified during the investigation.
14. Advise all participants that the investigation is "confidential" and not to engage in any retaliatory conduct, as such conduct is subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. An individual who is interviewed during the course of an investigation is prohibited from discussing the substance of the interview, except as otherwise directed by a supervisor or the Director of Human Resources. Any individual who discusses the content of an investigatory interview will be subject to discipline or other appropriate sanction.
15. Conduct follow-up interviews, if warranted.
16. Prepare report of findings and discuss with management and designated legal staff.

**VI. RESPONDING TO THE COMPLAINT**

- A. Following the completion of the fact-finding investigation, either the department head or the Director of Human Resources (or either of their designees), depending on who is responsible for the investigation, shall

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make a report of findings, along with a recommendation regarding the appropriate remedial action to be taken, if warranted. The recommendation shall be made after reviewing the findings of the investigation, giving consideration to all factual information, the nature of the alleged conduct, and the totality of the circumstances. If the investigation was conducted by the Director of Human Resources, or designee, the Director, or designee, shall confer with the affected department head and both shall concur on the remedial action to be taken, if any. If the investigation was conducted by the department head, the department head shall confer with the Director of Human Resources prior to making the report of findings and both shall concur on the remedial action to be taken, if any.

- B. If either the department head or the Director of Human Resources does not concur with the findings and recommendation of the other, the City Attorney (or designee) shall review and resolve the matter in dispute.
- C. Report of findings and recommendation shall be treated as a confidential document and no other distribution shall be made without first consulting with the City Attorney's Office. A completed investigation report will not be disclosed, except as it is deemed necessary to support a disciplinary action, to take remedial action, to defend the City in adversarial proceedings, or to comply with the law or court order.
- D. Either the department head or the Director of Human Resources (or either of their designees), depending on who is responsible for the investigation shall provide a written response to the complainant and the person alleged to have committed the misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment. The response shall include a copy of the City's discrimination and harassment policy and a memorandum indicating the City's determination as to whether the complaint is:
  - 1. Unsustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation(s).
  - 2. Unfounded: The investigation proved that the act(s) or omission(s)

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complained of did not occur. The finding also applies when the individual employee(s) named in the complaint were not involved in the act(s) or omission(s) alleged.

3. Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation(s) made in the complaint; appropriate action will be taken.
  - E. Details regarding any specific fact-findings or disciplinary action to be taken will not be communicated to the complainant. The City Attorney shall review the response for legal sufficiency before dissemination.
  - F. The City shall close and retain the investigation file, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and City policy regarding retention of City records.

**VII. DISCIPLINE**

Disciplinary action imposed as a result of any investigation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be commensurate with the severity of the offense, up to and including discharge, even for a first offense.

**VIII. ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES**

If upon exhausting all internal remedies to file, investigate, and respond to a charges of discrimination/harassment, pursuant to title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C §§ 2000e *et seq.*), any person has a right to file a charge of discrimination/harassment with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). In addition, pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code §§ 12900 – 12996.) a person may also file a complaint of discrimination/harassment with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"). Employees or non-employees who believe that they have been subjected to discrimination/harassment may file a complaint with either of these

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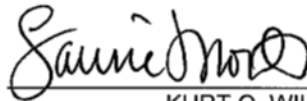
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agencies. Both the EEOC and DFEH serve as neutral fact-finders and attempt to assist parties in resolving disputes voluntarily.

**IX. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY**

This policy shall be provided to all managers, supervisors, employees, volunteers, unpaid interns, agents or contractors of the City and shall be posted in the appropriate places. All employees shall participate in City approved harassment awareness training as directed by management or Human Resources; and all supervisors, as required by law, shall participate in City approved interactive harassment awareness training and education sessions at least once every two years, or as otherwise specified by law.

APPROVED:



KURT O. WILSON  
CITY MANAGER